(d) The rail bridge has been completed and the link opened to traffic as MG. It will be converted to BG alongwith Sagauli-Gorakhpur route via Narkatiaganj and over this link by Dec '97.

[Translation]

Introduction of New Trains

627. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new fast trains from Ranchi to New Delhi, Mumbai, Madras and Dehradun;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Sambalpur Railway Division

628 DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any delay in making Sambalpur Railway Division, a full fledged Railway Division, and

(b) if so the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

Supply of Coal to National Fertilizers Limited

629 SHRI ANANTH KUMAR Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether some of the plants of the National Fertilizers Limited suffered loss due to supply of lesser quantity of coal than their requirements during recent months particularly May, 1996 and

(b) if so, the total loss of fertilizers production as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) (a) and (b) The Panipat and Bhatinda units of National Fertilizers Limited experienced constraints in the supplies of coal during the months of May and June 1996. The estimated loss of urea production in May 1996 was 10,742 MT at Panipat and 7,702 MT at Bhatinda. During June 1996 the loss of urea production was 516 MT at the Bhatinda unit

Preference in Appointment

630. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways do give preference to local people of Maharashtra for appointment to the post of clerks/Ticket Examiners etc. in the Mumbai Division of Maharashtra;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether at other places in the country local people of those States are given preference in appointments to such posts in Railways.

(d) if so, the reasons for discrimination in the case of Maharashtra only; and

(e) whether any guidelines are proposed to be issued to give preference to local people of Maharashtra in appointments to the said posts in various Railway Divisions in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Railway Recruitment Boards set up all over the country receive applications from candidates in response to their advertisements for various categories of posts irrespective of any region or State. They function on All India basis and do not observe any distinction or discrimination based on area, region, State etc. There is no proposal to deviate from this All India policy

Ozone Layer

631 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted in regard to the effect of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) like Clorofluorocarbons (CFCs) on the Ozone layer

(b) if so, the findings thereof and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Ozone layer from the indiscriminate use of Ozone Depleting Substances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) The Scientific Assessment Panel of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has concluded that Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) like Clorofluorocarbons (CFCs) cause damage to the Ozone layer

(c) Scientific findings resulted in an international agreement, called the Montreal Protocol to phaseout use of ODS. The Governmnent has ratified the Protocol and has taken steps to phaseout use of ODS consistent with provisions of the Protocol